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ART FURNITURE IN THE PARIS SALON.

BY LAURA B. STARR.

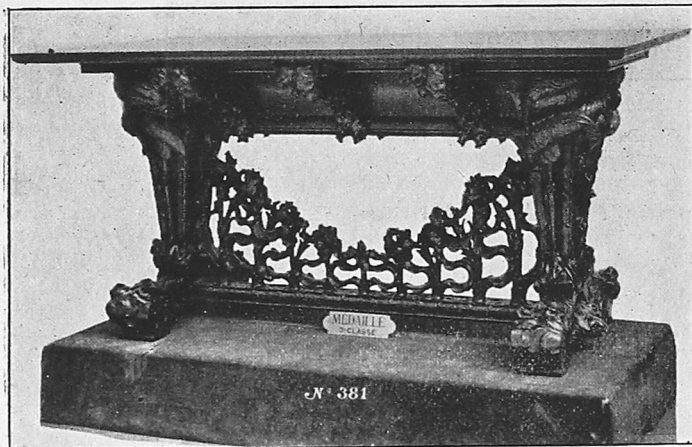
(Conclusion.)



UT to return to the furniture at the Exposition, of which, after all, there is very little, for, with the exception of the cabinet already mentioned, there are but two or three chairs and a lovely tea-table, inlaid with chestnut wood with a design of blossoms, burrs and leaves of the chestnut: an outside border shows the half-opened burrs and nuts scattered about as if they had just fallen. The colors, as well as the design, are harmonious, and there is an agreeable disposition of lines and distribution of ornament, such as to give proper proportion at a distance, even though the details are not distinguishable.

From the Exposition I found my way to Rue de Paradis, where the "Gautier table" is to be seen. This takes its name from the fact that the artist who designed it drew his inspiration from that famous poem of Theophile Gautier's entitled "La Source," which is full of fantastic and poetical ideas of the spring or source of all life. Two or three years ago there was a much-talked-of picture in the Salon which embodied the artist's idea of the poet's words, but it was rather a gruesome thing in a way, with myriads of new-born creatures disporting them about the canvas.

The table, however, is far more poetic and artistic; the two lines which form the text, "Peut etre deviendrai—je un fleure Baignant vallons, rochers et tours," are inlaid in quaint French lettering in one corner of



THE "GAUTIER TABLE."

the table-bed. The picture—and it is a beautiful one—represents a mermaid as the deity of the spring, threading her golden hair with long, slender fingers; her hair, which is shaded with several yellow woods, ripples like the waves of the sea as she murmurs Gautier's lines, which freely translated read: "Perhaps I shall become a river winding through valleys and over rocks."

The origin of life is typified by the presence of a variety of the denizens of the deep, just entering upon their existence. Iris, water lilies and other aquatic plants are faithfully depicted with colored woods, but the stately Iris predominates and is most exquisitely done. The girdle which encircles the body of the mermaid is encrusted with colored stones, and the brilliant butterflies which disport themselves among the blossoms which rear their heads above the water are set



INLAID TOP OF "THE GAUTIER TABLE."

with the same gems. There is a small border of natural woods which extends around the table like a frame. The body and ends of the table are beautifully carved with iris blooms, lily pads, fish, storks and other "water babies."

There are exquisite trays, in which bloom pansies of all natural shades fitted with medal rims and handles, bookcases, dressing-cases and writing-desks and, in fact, furniture of all kinds are decorated with figures and flowers in every shade of coloring known to the painter's palette; it is delicately beautiful, but more suited to boudoirs and chambers than for dining or drawing-rooms. Nothing could be lovelier or more appropriate than a young lady's bed and sitting-room furnished with articles decorated with inlay in delicate coloring.

TO darken the natural hue of wood use a solution composed of equal parts of magnate of soda and crystallized Epsom salts, dissolved in twenty or thirty times the amount of water at about 114°. The less water employed the darker will be the hue.

THERE are blue China silks and printed cottons treated by a peculiar process, which, instead of printing on the color, simply takes it out, leaving the pattern in white on the blue. A specially good design is of pine needles and cones. The peculiar blue of denim will combine with almost any color except sky blue, robin's egg, and gobelin blues. A design for crabs is odd enough to be called Japanese; it comes in dull reds and blues, printed on yard wide unbleached factory cloth. All of these materials are appropriately used for soft pillows, of which, in these days, one cannot have too many; and soft pillows, that may be laundered as occasion requires, are eminently desired.